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7 DESERT COVE RECOVERY, LLC, et al.,
8 Plaintiffs,
9 v.
10 UNITED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH,
11 Defendant.

Case No. [19-cv-05721-JSW](#)

**ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF TO
EXTEND TIME TO FILE MOTION**

Re: Dkt. No. 71

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13 This matter comes before the Court on consideration of Plaintiffs' administrative motion
14 for an extension of time to file a third amended complaint. Defendant opposes the motion on
15 procedural and substantive grounds. For the reasons that follow, the Court DENIES Plaintiffs'
16 motion.

17 On April 13, 2022, the Court granted, in part, and denied, in part Defendant's motion to
18 dismiss Plaintiffs' Second Amended Complaint. (Dkt. No. 60, "4/13/22 Order"). The Court
19 dismissed Plaintiffs' fraud based claims and stated that if they intended to pursue those claims,
20 they would need to move for leave to amend and file a proposed amended complaint with their
21 motion. (4/13/22 Order at 12:23-13:1.)

22 On May 13, 2022, the parties filed a joint case management conference statement. (Dkt.
23 No. 67.) On May 16, 2022, the Court issued an Order, in which it vacated the case management
24 conference and set August 19, 2022 as the deadline for filing motions to amend pleadings. (Dkt.
25 No. 68.)

26 On August 12, 2022, the Court granted the parties' stipulation to extend that deadline to
27 September 19, 2022. (Dkt. No. 74.) On September 19, 2022, the day motions were due, the
28 parties submitted another stipulation to extend that to October 19, 2022. The Court granted the

1 stipulation but ordered that "if the parties seek extensions of any deadlines in this case, they
2 should seek relief at least a week before the deadline expires." (Dkt. No. 76.)

3 Once again, on the day their motion was due, Plaintiffs asked for an extension of the
4 deadline. Defendant opposes the motion on the basis that it is untimely. Plaintiffs do not mention
5 the Court's direction to seek extensions at least a week before any deadline expires. The Court
6 issued that Order so that parties could not engage in "self-help" by seeking an extension on the
7 date a deadline expires and thereby obtain a *de facto* extension while the request is under
8 consideration. Plaintiffs may have construed the term "should" to be permissive, but it was
9 mandatory. Accordingly, the Court DENIES Plaintiffs' motion for an extension on the basis that
10 it was not timely and makes clear that any and all future requests for extension shall be filed one
11 week before a deadline expires.

12 Even if Plaintiffs' motion was timely, the Court would still deny the request for lack of
13 diligence. Plaintiffs argue they need this additional time because Defendant has not provided
14 responsive discovery. The materials submitted by Defendant demonstrate that Plaintiffs did not
15 act with diligence to finalize and submit the protective order, which Defendant asserted would be
16 necessary to put in place before it would produce the documents in question.

17 Accordingly, the Court DENIES Plaintiffs' motion for an additional extension of time to
18 file a motion for leave to amend.

19 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

20 Dated: October 25, 2022

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JEFFREY S. WHITE
United States District Judge